

PR03:113

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNOR DAVIS ANNOUNCES SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR CESAR E. CHAVEZ DAY

GO SERV Awards Nearly \$5 Million to 66 Service Projects for State Holiday for Labor Leader

SACRAMENTO _ Governor Gray Davis and the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) today announced the community service activities that are taking place for Cesar E. Chavez Day of Service and Learning.

"This state holiday should be used to commemorate Cesar Chavez's legacy of service to others," Gov. Davis said. "State workers and students with the time off will learn how rewarding it can be to give back to the community. I urge Californians to take this day to serve our communities so that the spirit of volunteerism will encourage us to answer the call to serve, everyday."

On August 21, 2000, Gov. Davis enacted landmark legislation creating the nation's first paid state holiday in honor of the late Cesar E. Chavez, an outspoken activist who worked tirelessly on behalf of immigrants and farmworkers living and working in California.

This year, GO SERV awarded nearly \$5 million in grants to 66 service projects throughout the state to commemorate Cesar E. Chavez. Several events, many funded by GO SERV, will be taking place throughout the state, beginning in mid-March and lasting through late summer. AmeriCorps members, California Conservation Corps members, students and their teachers, members of the Chavez family and the United Farmworkers Union will join together on Monday, March 31, 2003 in service and celebration to honor Cesar E. Chavez.

Some Cesar E. Chavez Day of Service and Learning events taking place throughout the state on that day include:

School Beautification and Tree Planting, Los Angeles

350 7th through 12th graders from four area schools will join with AmeriCorps members, members of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and the community in multiple school beautification projects and to commemorate the planting of a grove of approximately 500 to 1,000 trees. Contact: Phil Matero at 213/747-1872 ext. 310 or 213/590-0330 (cell).

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sepulveda Basin Recreational Area

6335 Woodley Avenue

Van Nuys, CA

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Field Harvest and Food Donation, Orange County

120 4th graders, joined by dozens of high school students and teachers will join the Orange County Cesar Chavez Initiative and the Second Harvest Food Bank to harvest vegetables from an area field and then donate the produce to the local food bank. Contact: Shaun Hirschl at 714/953-5757 ext. 135.

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Incredible Edible Park

Irvine, CA

Community Garden Build, Los Angeles

Nearly 200 students working in shifts of 10 will build a community rooftop garden, growing food and vegetables which will be harvested and consumed at the school site. Contact: Roger Lowenstein at 213/381-8484.

8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Immanueal Presbyterian Church

3300 Wilshire Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA

Mural Painting and Community Garden, San Jose

San Jose Unified School District will engage several hundred schoolchildren in community service projects such as painting murals depicting the values of Chavez and working in community gardens. Contact: Karen Fuqua at 408/535-6444.

1:00 p.m. Mural Painting

Pioneer High School

1290 Blossom Hill Road

San Jose, CA

1:30 p.m. Community Gardening

Hacienda Elementary School

1290 Kimberly Drive

San Jose, CA

School Beautification and Landscaping, El Centro

700 students and 80 AmeriCorps members will serve at seven different area schools, planting trees, removing graffiti and providing other general school beautification as needed. Contact: Rita Brogan at 760/312-6498.

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Seven area schools, please call for more information

El Centro, CA

Clothes for Kids, Hayward

100 students and community members will gather for a day of education, entertainment and service in honor of Cesar E. Chavez. The students will launch "Fluff and Fold," a clothing drive where the students solicit clothing donations from community members and after laundering and folding them, students will deliver the clothes to the local Family Resource Center. Contact: J. Toro at 510/881-5921.

12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

La Familia Counseling Service

26081 Mocine Avenue

Hayward, CA

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Park Renovation Launch and School March, Alta Loma

More than 400 students and adults will participate in many activities including staging a student written biographical play about Chavez, participating in a school-wide Character March promoting Chavez's 10 values and launching service-learning projects for the soon-to-be renovated and dedicated Cesar E. Chavez community park. Contact: Raven Armejo at 626/825-1570 or Ricardo Delgado at 909/910-4826.

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Mt. San Antonio College
1100 North Grand
Walnut, CA

GO SERV is California's national service program, charged with the implementation and oversight of AmeriCorps. For more information about AmeriCorps or to apply for an AmeriCorps grant, visit www.goserv.ca.gov or telephone GO SERV at (916) 323-7646.

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